

EUGENE Weekly

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SPENCER HOVLAND
AND HIS MOBILE
FINGERBOARD COURSE.

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FINGERBOARDING
Photo by Eve Weston



editorial

PUBLISHER Jody Rolnick
EDITOR Camilla Mortensen
CALENDAR EDITOR Savannah Brown
COPY EDITOR Kat Tabor
BRICKS & MORTAR Christian Wihtol
STAFF WRITERS Savannah Brown, Eve Weston
PHOTOGRAPHER Eve Weston
CONTRIBUTING ARTS WRITER Will Kennedy
CONTRIBUTING COPY EDITOR Jane Dods
ARTS EDITOR EMERITUS Bob Keefer
HAPPENING PEOPLE Paul Neevel
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Ester Barkai, Dan Bryant, Tom Coffin, Ayisha Elliott, Rachel Foster, Barbara Gleason, Dan Gleason, Henry Houston, Kim Kelly, Cynthia Lafferty, Chandra LeGue, Rick Levin, Doyle Srader, Alby Thounsins, Dorothy Velasco, John Zerzan
INTERNS Corin Antonio, Pierce Baugh V
CATALYST JOURNALISM PROJECT REPORTERS
Mirandah Davis-Powell, Ruby Duncan, Grace Mangali, Ysabella Sosa

art department

ART DIRECTOR/PRODUCTION MANAGER
McKenzie Young-Roy
PRODUCTION DESIGNER Amy Prince
GRAPHICS INTERNS Jasmine Wilkerson
TECHNOLOGY/WEBMASTER James Bateman

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OPINION

letters

FROM NICKELS TO BIBLES

Pete DeFazio's Take

I wish I had a nickel for every time an old white guy told me the only reason no woman has been president yet is because we “haven’t nominated the right one.”

Rebecca McCroskey
Eugene

Sacrifice

As a Christian, Dan Bryant believes in the concept of sacrifice. i.e. God the Father sacrificed Jesus so Christians could spend eternity in heaven. I think the murder of Jesus was a tragedy and nothing good came of it, unless you think of the spread of the Holy Roman Empire and the theft of the American continents by Christians to be good things.

He claims that the murder of Renee Good was an unintentional sacrifice, as if something good is bound to come from it. I’m afraid that this logic might encourage some suicidal teenager to sacrifice himself by provoking ICE to shoot him. Nothing good will come from that, either, and it might result in the unintentional sacrifice of others.

He says, “This must be our Kent State moment,” referring to the murder of protesters in 1970. I say, “What good came from the Kent State murders?” The protests went on and the war went on. It eventually ended in 1975 when the government realized we couldn’t win it. He quoted one banner, “They can’t kill us all.” Was he implying that people should be ready to sacrifice themselves?

I’m not saying not to do what you can to counteract the killing. I am saying, “Don’t

try to be a hero or a martyr.” Sacrifice is not a magic ritual that will make something good happen.

Steve Hiatt
Eugene

Ban the Bible in Public Meetings

A standing ovation for Karen Myers (Jan. 15 “Sermon on the County, Loveall Style”) and Thomas Hiura (Jan. 15 “State of the County, Not Church of the County”) for calling out “Bible waving” David Loveall. Loveall must not have read the First Amendment: Article VI (no religion test clause) prevents the government from

requiring religion or affiliation as a condition for serving the government.

Simply put, there must be a separation of church and state in a public meeting. Loveall must think that the Supreme Court has given him the power to do whatever he wants, like the want-a-be dictator, Donald Trump. We need to get out and vote in November, and my vote is going for Sean VanGordon, the mayor of Springfield, to be the next Lane County Commission board chair, and from there we need to work our way up to the top and impeach 34-felon Donald Trump.

Frank Harper
Springfield

Forbidden Plateau of Sexuality

I was a lone traveler, not unlike Dan Savage (Jan. 22), making my way across the forbidden plateau of sexuality. I knew I was gay by age 13, but in my shame as a good Christian boy, I grew exhausted with despair and remained deeply closeted. Unlike Savage, I was never bullied in my public-school years, but lost and lonely to the core — I missed high school proms and the joy of puppy love shared by straight kids. It wasn’t until college that I

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

AMERICA 2026: THE GREATNESS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL MORALE IMPROVES

TIN SOLDIERS AND DONALD'S COMING

IF THE PROTESTERS DON'T STOP CALLING US **MURDERERS**-- WE'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO MURDER **MORE** OF THEM!

ACTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES!

YOUR ACTIONS, I MEAN, NOT OURS.

TOTALLY NORMAL FOREIGN POLICY

VENEZUELA'S OIL BELONGS TO US NOW! AND WE WILL VERY MUCH GOODLY SELL IT FOR MANY BIG PRICES!

THEY WILL GREET US AS **LIBERATORS**-- OF THEIR **NATURAL RESOURCES**!

DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH, SHEEPLE

CHILDREN DON'T NEED VACCINES FOR RSV, HEPATITIS, OR BACTERIAL MENINGITIS--WHATEVER ANY OF THAT STUFF EVEN IS!

JUST EAT SOME DELICIOUS **ROAD KILL**--AND BE HEALTHY LIKE ME!

ALSO BEEF TALLOW. I DRINK IT BY THE JUG!

BETTER LIVING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

GROK ALLOWS PREMIUM USERS TO SEXUALIZE ANY IMAGE ANY--ONE **POSTS**! IT'S ANOTHER FREE SPEECH **VICTORY** FROM ME, THE WORLD'S SMARTEST MAN!

TRULY, X IS THE **EVERY-THING APP**!

GROK, SHOW ME A.O.C. IN A **CONFEDERATE BIKINI**! LOL.

CONCEPTS OF SOMETHING THAT VAGUELY RESEMBLES A PLAN

YOU'LL NEGOTIATE **DIRECTLY** WITH DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS--TO GET THE **BEST PRICE** TO TREAT YOUR HEART ATTACK OR LIFE-THREATENING INJURY!

IT'S THE MAGIC OF THE **FREE MARKET**!

THE NEW NEW WORLD ORDER

LIKE I TOLD THEM AT DAVOS, I WOULD NEVER USE THE MILITARY TO TAKE ICELAND BY FORCE! OR WOULD I? HEH HEH.

ER--YES, SIR! BUT PERHAPS YOU MEAN **GREENLAND**?

WHATEVER, TRUMP SLEEPY NOW. TIME FOR **NAP**.

NEXT: MORE GREATNESS THAN YOU CAN POSSIBLY IMAGINE!

began to explore my despair with counseling. Instead of dropping out of college as a sophomore, the counselor gave me the best advice of my life, he told me, “Find someone of like mind and get on with your journey in life.”

As I reached my third decade, and with five perfections: patience, giving, morality, meditation and wisdom, I came out to my parents. There were no difficulties encountered when I introduced them to my partner David — he became the love of my life and my parents learned to love David, too.

Being gay naturally occurs in nature and is, above all, a particular expression of an individual’s “Truth.” When one acknowledges that they are gay, their understanding at the beginning of the journey may be difficult, but gone is the austerity of being alone.

Mike E. Walsh
Eugene

Barring of the Down Payment

The Oregon Legislature returns next week to kick off its five-week short session

and lawmakers have a real chance to help first-time homebuyers if they start in the right place.

One clear fix is the mortgage interest deduction. Oregon currently allows this tax break for a primary residence and also for vacation houses. That means millions of public dollars are helping subsidize second houses while thousands of working families cannot clear the biggest barrier to ownership: the down payment. Ending the deduction for vacation houses is not extreme. It keeps the benefits for people living in their homes and stops subsidizing additional property accumulation.

On its own, this change would free up \$10 million each year. Those dollars should be directed toward down payment assistance, one of the few tools proven to help first-time and first-generation buyers actually buy a home. Without help up front, families are locked out before they can even make an offer.

That support becomes even more powerful when paired with Leader Bowman’s proposed “Buyers Before Billionaires” bill, which would require large institutional investors to wait 90 days before bidding

on single-family homes. Giving people a head start with down payments while slowing down Wall Street investors helps Oregonians compete.

These ideas will not solve the housing crisis overnight. But together, they move Oregon toward a system that favors people over speculation, homes over portfolios, and long-term community stability over short-term profit. They are the perfect recipe for a five-week session.

Kevin Cronin
Eugene

Support for the Traffic-Safety Ordinance

The debate over handing money to people in traffic in Eugene is often framed as a test of compassion. But the sidewalk corners at busy intersections, narrow medians and freeway ramps where people ask for help are some of the most dangerous places in the city. These are high-speed areas where drivers are accelerating, merging, or distracted and where a moment of inattention can have devastating consequences.

Our unhoused neighbors stand in these locations because they have few alterna-

tives, but that doesn’t make these environments safe. When a driver hands money out a window, it pulls someone closer to moving traffic at exactly the moment drivers are least focused on pedestrians.

The ordinance currently before City Council does not ban panhandling and it does not target the person asking for help. It simply asks drivers not to create situations where someone has to lean toward traffic to receive a few dollars. That is a basic harm-reduction step, not a judgment on anyone’s humanity.

If we want compassion to mean something, it should include keeping people alive. I urge City Council to adopt this ordinance as a small but necessary step toward reducing preventable harm.

Curtis Taylor
Eugene

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Local & Vocal

Viewpoint by Jenny Jonak

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN AMERICAN?

If Renee Good and Alex Pretti were not white, would the outrage be the same?

Many of us have watched videos of the shooting deaths of Renee Good and Alex Pretti. Good’s and Pretti’s deaths stand out, in part, because of the existence of videos that directly contradict the government’s account of the shootings.

But the backlash is also because we are less likely to ignore overreach in the name of national security when it involves someone who looks “American.” Good and Pretti were visually, undeniably American.

Public outrage over state violence is not about government overreach alone — it is about who is perceived as American enough for that overreach to matter.

This is not a new phenomenon. American law has repeatedly defined “American” in racial terms. The Chinese Exclusion Act was the first U.S. law to bar immigration based entirely on race and nationality. Chinese residents were required to prove legal status on demand. “Show me your papers” enforcement is what we are now seeing in Minnesota with a Hmong elder — who has been a U.S. citizen for decades — marched out in the snow in his underwear. Or reports of ICE profiling and detaining Native Americans; even the original inhabitants of our country must prove their right to be here.

Until 1952, U.S. citizenship was legally limited to “free white persons.” Later, persons of African descent were added. Asians were explicitly excluded. Being American was racial, and certain races could not fully belong.

In 1942, the U.S. president issued an executive order for the forcible removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans. Most were U.S. citizens. The

government required no proof that any of them had done anything wrong. Ancestry alone was a “threat” to national security.

Our society has been willing to accept deaths of residents of color based on dubious claims of law enforcement. We have sanctioned targeting people on the basis of race or accent in immigration enforcement. It is only when it happens to ‘Americans’ that we realize we may have stepped over a line.

In 1944, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld this action, relying on the Roosevelt administration’s claim that Japanese Americans were a security threat during a time of war. Unbeknownst to the Supreme Court, the government possessed intelligence directly contradicting these claims but suppressed it, instead implying the military had secret intelligence justifying exclusion.

We were at war with Germany and Italy, as well as Japan, but citizens of German and Italian descent were never incarcerated on the basis of their ancestry.

Despite the later evidence that came out, including

unanimous findings from a commission in the 1980s, it took until 2018 before the Supreme Court repudiated the decision.

What happened to Asian Americans parallels racial stereotyping of other communities as “dangerous.” This includes the stereotyping of Muslims and persons of Middle Eastern descent as terrorists, the fear of Black people as inherently dangerous, and claims that immigrants from Latin America are “invading” our country.

If Renee Good and Alex Pretti had not been white, would it have been as obvious to the public that they were not “domestic terrorists”?

Our society has been willing to accept deaths of residents of color based on dubious claims of law enforcement. We have sanctioned targeting people on the basis of race or accent in immigration enforcement. It is only when it happens to “Americans” that we realize we may have stepped over a line.

You will hear excuses: If only she had stayed home; if only he hadn’t “interfered” with federal agents... This is how unconstitutional conduct is rationalized after the fact. In the Pretti case, the truth is on video, and we can see that this is happening to “Americans.”

I ask you: What is an American?

Will you see it when it happens to someone that doesn’t look American to you?

Will you see that our treatment of the most marginalized in our society is only a testing ground for how far we can strip someone of their rights, and sooner or later, that will come for you?

Jenny Jonak is a Korean American attorney, member of the Eugene 4J School Board, and board member of the Asian American Council of Oregon. This represents only her individual viewpoint and not those of any organization.

NEWS

Federal agents deploy pepper balls, tear gas and more against protesters at the downtown Eugene Federal Building

GASSED BY FEDS

BY EVE WESTON

Photo by
Eve Weston

At the downtown Eugene Federal Building, a loudspeaker on the roof played the message, “You are ordered to depart the area immediately.” Minutes later at approximately 7 pm, federal agents from both the Department of Homeland Security and a Customs and Border Protection Special Response Team (SRT) created chaos, throwing a flashbang into a crowd of protesters, then firing pepper balls and tear gas canisters.

A *Eugene Weekly* reporter — who was clearly marked as media and announcing herself as such — was struck by pepper balls in the leg and foot. Several other journalists — including reporters from Lane Community College’s *The Torch* — were either struck or affected by the irritants used.

The events began hours earlier around 12:30 pm when two peaceful protesters were violently arrested by the CBP and DHS agents while participating in the weekly interfaith Singing For Our Lives

Vigil in the plaza of the Federal Building. One of the protesters arrested was Anna Lardner, a plaintiff in a civil rights lawsuit against the Trump administration, Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem and the DHS.

“They dragged me, they took me to the ground, they pulled me inside,” Lardner says of DHS and the SRT. “I believe this is retaliation for that lawsuit.”

The *Weekly* reported on the lawsuit in early December. A temporary injunction is currently in place against new rules regarding conduct on federal property, including a provision that prohibits “loud or unusual noise.” Several protesters used whistles, airhorns and megaphones.

As a result of her arrest, Lardner was scraped and bruised. “They kept tweaking around my arm and wrist in there,” she says. “At one point they sat on my ankles and splayed my ankles out and pulled my toes back.” Lardner, a transgender woman, says she repeatedly requested a female officer to conduct a search, but DHS officers refused.

“I said ‘I want a female officer to search me, don’t touch me,’” Lardner says. “Then they pushed my head into the wall, and I said, ‘Stop, that hurts.’” She says that agents said there was no female officer in the building, but after about five minutes, one did appear to conduct the search.

After the first two protesters were arrested, more people arrived as support and to protest against those seemingly unprovoked arrests. Another plaintiff in the civil rights case, Chloe Longworth, was pepper sprayed, but not arrested.

Later that day, after she had recovered from the pepper spray, Longworth was arrested by CBP agents when she re-entered federal grounds.

As protesters gathered, DHS and CBP agents intermittently rushed out of the building and without warning, grabbed protesters and took them inside. Some protesters say the agents appeared to target people with megaphones. Agents fired pepper balls during several of the arrests. Despite the agents’ use of force, protesters on scene remained nonviolent and unarmed, shouting expletives at agents and chanting “ICE OUT.”

Then, at 5 pm, members of the Oregon Nurses Association arrived in front of the plaza to hold a candlelight vigil for Alex Pretti, the intensive care nurse in the Minneapolis U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs who was shot and killed by federal agents Jan. 24 at an ICE protest in Minnesota. About 200 people, including Eugene Mayor Kaarin Knudson, gathered to honor Pretti’s life in the plaza as protests near the entrance of the Federal Building continued in the background.

Paloma Galindo, a registered nurse, says despite the aggression shown by federal agents, she showed up because “it’s not always going to be comfortable to stand up, but we all have a duty to do it.”

The vigil began with a man playing taps on a trumpet to honor Pretti’s service at the VA. “This is some of the darkest times in our history, and we’re living in it,” Galindo says.

After several vigil attendees — including the mayor and other representatives — left the area, about 150 protesters massed at the front doors of the federal building. There, federal agents ordered protesters to leave the property and a warning was played over a rooftop loudspeaker. The

crowd stayed put, shouting at an agent on the roof to “jump.” A laser was seen shining into the building from the crowd.

Without warning, CBP agents threw a flashbang from the front door and more than 20 agents stormed out of the building, firing pepper balls and tear gas canisters. The crowd ran away, later approaching the building again once agents had pulled back. Agents again fired tear gas and pepper at the crowd, pushing them back. One agent was seen firing canisters that landed in the street.

Several protesters reported bruising from the pepper balls, including LCC’s *The Torch* reporter Agostinho DaSilva, who was shot six times. University of Oregon journalism professor Dan Morrison was also affected by tear gas on scene.

In an email to *Eugene Weekly*, Sen. Ron Wyden writes, “Trump’s ICE and CBP agents have clearly been trained in fear tactics instead of legitimate law enforcement. I’m calling on ICE and CBP agents in our streets to stop provoking peaceful observers and to get out of our communities.”

Federal agents retreated once again and the crowd slowly followed until they were at the front doors. There, a crowd of around 40 people chanted “let them go.” One person was released from the building. The crowd continued to chant until federal agents announced that all detainees had been released. Around 10 to 20 people then stayed there until approximately 10 pm.

According to protesters, several Eugene Police Department officers were seen in the area, including a mobile response team wearing riot gear; however, Eugene police did not engage with protesters or federal law enforcement.

In an email to *Eugene Weekly*, spokesperson Melinda McLaughlin writes that EPD, “a service of the City of Eugene, does not participate in federal immigration enforcement. EPD is legally prohibited from doing so under both state law and local ordinance. EPD serves every resident and visitor, including the immigrant community.”

She writes that EPD responses in the area were to support the Eugene Springfield Fire Department with medical calls and “to ensure safety and preservation of nearby public and private property.”

slant — Shot and sprayed

BY EW EDITORIAL STAFF

>> We are appalled by what is going on under the Trump administration. Alex Pretti, a nurse, was killed in cold blood only weeks after ICE killed Renee Good. Immigrants and others are targeted for the color of their skin or their accents, and federal officers descended upon a local Jan. 27 protest and vigil with tear gas, tasers and pepper balls. The agents targeted people exercising their First Amendment rights — going after participants at an interfaith singing event, protesters with megaphones and credentialed journalists. Two *Eugene Weekly* reporters were struck with pepper balls and other deterrents while covering

the protest, leaving the scene, shouting they were press and holding up their credentials. Reporters from almost every news source in town were affected — including from Lane Community College’s *The Torch* and the University of Oregon’s *Daily Emerald*. Stand up for free speech and transparency, support immigrants, support your community and support a free press. See videos and photos at EugeneWeekly.com.

>> As a newspaper, the *Weekly* is often asked to run anonymous letters and sources. We try to avoid that because we seek to be transparent. If someone asks to be anonymous, we ask why — and if someone is anonymous, we say why. To be anonymous, someone would need to

have a genuine fear of danger or repercussion. We won’t print someone’s name if they requested anonymity — if we deny the request, we simply are not going to quote them or print the letter. There are places from Reddit to Facebook where folks can weigh in and hide who they are, but in the era where ICE agents wear masks while killing protesters, we shine a light on truth — we get the fear, we are targeted too — but democracy is worth it.

>> On a lighter note, did you see someone at a recent protest you feel a connection with? Pass someone smelling like patchouli in the aisle at Kiva or Capella that you just need to compliment? Place a free I Saw You ad in Eugene Weekly’s classified section for the Feb. 5 Love and

Sex issue by emailing ISawYou@EugeneWeekly.com.

>> Nationally published queer Eugene-based photographer Sophie Spinelle debuts her newest exhibition *True to Form* on Feb. 5 at Imperfecta Gallery in Portland. Spinelle created *True to Form* in response to the Trump administration’s attempts at restricting gender-affirming care as well as other attacks on the LGBTQ community. The series is a collection of portraits that presents queer and trans subjects who collaboratively shaped their individual shoots, having agency over how they are represented in a time where the Trump administration frames them as dangerous and extremist. For more, check out EugeneWeekly.com.

AMAZON WAREHOUSE A PROPERTY-TAX JACKPOT? NOPE.

A single new student-housing complex pays more than Amazon will

After *Eugene Weekly* unmasked Amazon as the conglomerate behind the planned package-distribution center near the Eugene Airport, some people have suggested Amazon's property tax payments on the place may prove a rich windfall for money-starved local governments.

But that's not likely.

How much will the facility pay each year in property taxes to the cash-strapped city of Eugene? Maybe about \$290,000, Bricks \$ Mortar calculates. That won't go far in a city government with a \$930 million annual budget and 1,500 employees.

Eugene School District 4J, now implementing major layoffs, would get less, about \$250,000, Bricks \$ Mortar calculates. That's enough to pay the salary and benefits of a few teachers, in a district with about 2,000 employees and a roughly \$300 million annual budget.

The Amazon facility may be many things. But a property tax goldmine it is not.

The facility's advocates give it a fancy name: an "e-commerce center." But it will really be just a vast steel warehouse filled with expensive conveyor belts, and will be taxed accordingly.

Amazon's total property tax payments, to all local jurisdictions, will be roughly \$720,000 a year, Bricks \$ Mortar estimates. It could be somewhat more or somewhat less, depending on the value of the conveyor system. Amazon won't disclose what it will spend on the facility, spokesperson Farah Jud says.

Let's put this money in perspective:

Lane County records show

the county's single biggest property taxpayer is International Paper's linerboard factory in Springfield, which pays \$4.4 million a year. Other big property taxpayers are McKenzie-Willamette hospital (\$1.8 million a year), Weyerhaeuser Co.'s mills in Eugene and Cottage Grove (\$2.1 million total a year) and Valley River Center in Eugene (\$1 million a year).

The Amazon facility likely would fall far short of making the top 10 list of Lane County property tax payers.

If you're looking for a genuine recent tax godsend, consider the five big student apartment complexes out-of-state developers have built in Eugene in the last eight years. As a group, these five pay over \$3.4 million a year in property taxes, county records show.

The biggest, the Standard at Eugene, the new 703-bedroom student complex on Broadway near the Ferry Street Bridge, pays nearly \$1 million a year in property taxes, county records show. Two more student housing high-rises are under construction. Each will likely pay about \$750,000 a year in property taxes.

No one will know for sure how much Amazon will pay until the

place has been built and officially assessed.

Here's how Bricks \$ Mortar estimated the taxes:

1. How much will Amazon spend on its project? Amazon spent \$2 million to buy the farmland site, and in a filing with the city, Amazon's consultant put the construction cost at \$24 million.

On top of this, the wild card is the value of the conveyor system Amazon will install. News reports show that for some package-sorting centers of this size in other states, Amazon installs \$20 million to \$30 million worth of equipment. Let's use the higher number. That gives us a facility with a total value of \$56 million.

Compare that to the market value of the IP linerboard plant: \$253 million.

2. Once the place is built, the Oregon Department of Revenue will use a valuation formula to determine the assessed value of the facility. The assessed value is the amount that's taxed.

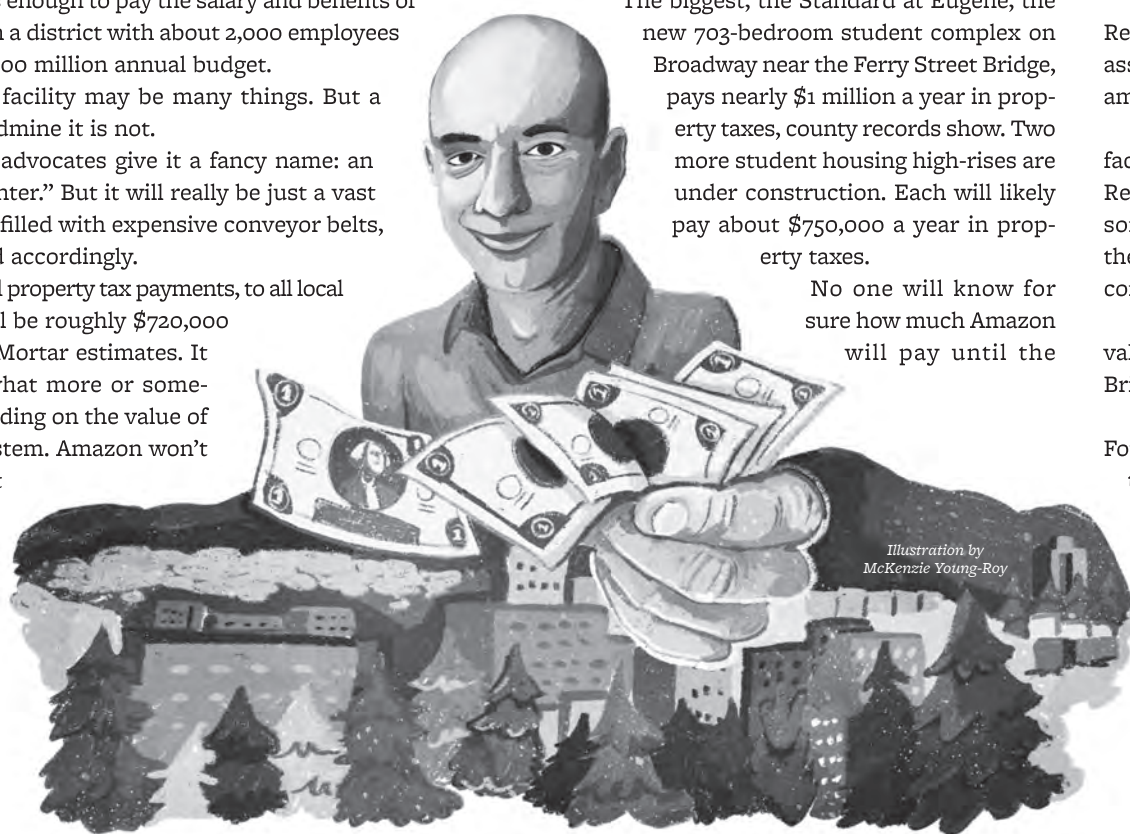
On large industrial properties such as the Amazon facility, assessment work is done by the Department of Revenue in cooperation with the Lane County Assessor's Office. For almost all properties in Lane County, the assessed value is much lower than the cost of new construction, for reasons that are beside the point here.

The formula the state would use would peg the assessed value of the Amazon development at about \$36 million, Bricks \$ Mortar estimates.

How much property taxes would Amazon pay on that? For all property tax jurisdictions at that Highway 99 location — city of Eugene, Eugene School District, Lane County government, etc. — the total tax rate would be about \$20 per \$1,000 of assessed value. That's \$720,000 a year to be paid by Amazon.

Eugene residents may be praying for a savior who will bail out city government and the Eugene School District. But it won't be Jeff Bezos.

Bricks \$ Mortar is a column anchored by Christian Wihtol, who worked as an editor and writer at The Register-Guard in Eugene 1990-2018, much of the time focused on real estate, economic development and business. Reach him at Christian@EugeneWeekly.com.



ACTIVIST ALERT

PROTESTS, ACTIVISM AND MORE AROUND LANE COUNTY

BY CAMILLA MORTENSEN

"Power does not corrupt men; fools, however, if they get into a position of power, corrupt power."

— George Bernard Shaw

Upcoming Protests, Rallies, Marches, Talks and Gatherings

>> **National Day of Action**, Jan. 30, No work, no school, no shopping, stop funding ICE. NationalShutdown.org. **ICE OUT**: No business as usual, 2 pm Springfield City Hall, 225 5th Street.

Ongoing events at the Eugene Federal Building, 7th Avenue and Pearl Street.

>> **Veterans for Peace, Chapter 159**, weekly protest, 1 pm to 2 pm Mondays.

>> **Protest ICE: Last Tuesday Mobilization Response**, 10 am to 4 pm last Tuesday of each month. More at Linktr.ee/psleugene. Be available for rapid

response via Tinyurl.com/Immigrant-DefenseSignal.

>> **Singing for Our Lives**, noon to 1 pm Tuesdays, the BeLonging Space and Interfaith Alliance with Migrants.

>> **Silent Protest to Support Our Immigrant Neighbors**, 1 pm to 2 pm Tuesdays. Signs provided, wear white or black. Indivisible Eugene/Springfield.

>> **Love and Rage Protest**, 2 pm to 5 pm, Tuesdays.

>> **Showing Up for Racial Justice**, noon to 1 pm Wednesdays.

>> **50501 Weekly Protest**, noon to 4 pm, Wednesdays. Bring readings, songs, signs or other art.

>> **Weekly Vigils Against the Genocide in Gaza and Against ICE**, 3 pm to 5:30 pm, Wednesdays, Planet Versus Pentagon.

>> **"Signs of Fascism" Protest**, 10 am to noon Thursdays. Signs provided, wear all black. Indivisible.

>> **Raging Grannies**, noon to 2 pm, Fridays.

Ongoing events

>> **Resist! Persist! Repeat! Weekly Protest**, 10 am to 11 am Mondays, corners on 29th and Willamette Street and 11 am to noon Mondays, corner of Coburg and Harlow roads.

>> **Weekly Get-Out-the-Vote Postcarding**, for the 2026 midterm elections. For more info Pandi96743@yahoo.com.

>> **Make protest signs at MECCA**, 11 am to 6 pm Tuesday through Saturday; get help with signmaking 11 am to 1 pm Wednesdays, materials donated

by Eugene Message Makers, make up to four signs for a \$5-10 donation to MECCA.

>> **Stop the Cuts**, noon, Fridays, Eugene Veterans Clinic, 3355 Chad Drive.

>> **Stand in Solidarity with Food Not Bombs Feeding the Community**, 4 pm Fridays, downtown Park Blocks, 8th and Oak, Instagram.com/foodnotbombs_eugene.

>> **Springfield Community of Peace: Seeking Peace in the Middle East**, 3 pm the second Sunday of each month, Ebbert Methodist Church, 532 C St., Springfield. Discussion and action.

Email Editor@EugeneWeekly.com with "Activist Alert" in the subject line to add protests to this listing, and subscribe to the Activist Alert newsletter at EugeneWeekly.com/newsletter to get this information in your inbox on Wednesdays!



SPENCER HOVLAND
GRINDS A RAIL ON HIS MOBILE
FINGERBOARD COURSE.
Photo by Eve Weston

Explore the world of miniature skateboarding **BY WILL KENNEDY**

From cars and trains to dollhouses and clothing, people like nothing more than to find something they love and make it smaller. In fact, several Eastern philosophies link miniature objects to spiritual truth — case in point, fingerboarding.

Sitting at the intersection of hobby, craft and sports — fingerboarders use their middle and index fingers to ride scaled-down skateboards. The equally miniaturized courses feature ramps and urban landscapes, complete with curbs, railings and fire hydrants. They’re often built from foam and covered with thin layers of concrete.

It’s a niche pursuit, but dozens in Eugene and many more all over the world fingerboard. It’s the only kind of skateboarding that can be done in a typical indoor space and according to several people *Eugene Weekly* spoke with, the scene is growing.

Fingerboarding means different things to different people: Some compete, some ride the boards for fun and relaxation while others focus on building the scaled-down courses. Some do it just to master — in the parlance of skateboarding — “gnarly tricks.”

Mallory Curtis from Eugene has turned her passion for fingerboarding into a career. In her Friendly Street neighborhood home, she owns and operates Unique Decks. The company sells custom-made fingerboards with Curtis’ own designs on the boards — also called decks — made from five half-a-millimeter-thick layers of maple. She carefully glues them together and then forms the board in a custom mold before sanding the edges down.

With Unique Decks, like most fingerboards, the trucks — or the bit that attaches the wheels to the deck — are high-quality metal. Likewise, the wheels are plastic with actual tiny bearings, much like a full-sized skateboard. The average fingerboard is about 4 inches long and about 1 inch wide. Compare that to a skateboard, which is often about 32 inches long and about 8 or 9 inches wide.

Curtis supplements Unique Decks’ sales with her second company, The Fingerboard Factory, producing just the maple decks in large quantities. She then sells to other brands so that they can add their own custom design and peripherals like trucks, wheels and grip tape (the surface skaters stand on — or with fingerboarding, place their fingers on).

Ask an avid fingerboarder about “tech decks,” which are effectively the same thing, and they’ll call them entry-level toys, mass-produced with plastic decks, lower-quality trucks and wheels with no bearings. These toys typically cost about \$20. Curtis’ boards, on the other hand, are definitely for the serious fingerboarder. She sells them online starting at \$45 and promotes her business through Instagram. Custom or high-end fingerboards from name brands like Blackriver and Dynamic cost at least \$100, and some rare, limited-edition fingerboards cost thousands.

Curtis’ fingerboarding colleague and friend, Spencer Hovland, 26, also from Eugene, has fingerboarded since he was a kid, and says he picked it up again around 18 or 19. Last April, he built a tiny concrete fingerboard park near the Ferry Street Bridge, available for the public to use. And about two years ago, he built his own portable fingerboard course, a shrunk-down cityscape with graffiti, curbs, steps and more, to land tricks on.

Those tricks are much the same as skateboarding tricks, like heelflips, spins, grinds and slides. Except in this case, they’re performed just with fingers. (Hovland used to skateboard, too, but refocused on fingerboarding in 2020 when he broke his wrist. Then, he gave up skateboarding for good three years later, when he suffered a bad fall, leaving half his face covered in road rash with holes in his lip and a broken nose.)

According to Curtis and Hovland, most fingerboarders also make videos, which they typically share online, and some fingerboarders make money from the content. Hovland shares his videos — created both indoors and

outdoors — on Instagram under @Ride2RelaxFB.

Most often, they’re angled to show nothing but the board, the fingers, and the model course, ramp, or obstacle. With accompanying music, there’s a meditative quality as the small skateboard cruises serenely through a small world Hovland created.

Fingerboarders do compete, Hovland says, comparing fingerboard pioneer Mike Schneider to Tony Hawk, the champion skateboarder often credited with mainstreaming full-sized skateboarding in America. But like regular skateboarding, there’s some controversy around adding a competitive element to fingerboarding, as some feel it should be about personal achievement and community, unlike other sports.

Even so, Hovland says fingerboarding competitions, which happen all over the world, are judged on trick execution, but also on how well the fingerboarding creates the illusion that the trick is performed on two legs.

Daniel Cornwell is a nationally ranked fingerboarder who competes nationally and lives in Eugene. “I focus very heavily on filming clips and posting edits,” Cornwell says on Instagram as @dlc.fb. “I have grown a recent interest in making fingerboard obstacles out of cement,” he says, explaining he spends up to eight hours a day on the hobby.

Trucks, wheels and heel flips aside, Curtis calls fingerboarding a community. “I know people literally all over the world that I could just go sleep on their couch,” she says. “This is my art,” she adds, “basically, like my creative outlet.”

“It gives me a sense of freedom,” Hovland says. “I could never do this in real life,” he adds, referring to the tricks he performs and the varied tiny environments he performs them in. “So, I make a miniature version,” Hovland says.

“At the end of the day,” Cornwell says, “we are just a bunch of grown-ups pretending to be architects in a little world we made for our hands.”

To get your own Unique Decks board, visit UniqueDecks.co.

There Are HAPHAZARDS Lurking

Born in Eugene during the pandemic, **HAPHAZARDS** is a storytelling card game built on visual play, improvisation and wildly inventive rescues

BY KAT TABOR

THE STRANDLIN FAMILY, ANDREA, JACOB, XANDER AND NOALE, CREATED HAPHAZARDS.
Photo by Eve Weston



A quiet Sunday in 2020, during the early months of COVID-19 lockdowns, sparked what would become **HAPHAZARDS**, an imagination-driven card game now shipping its first print run.

The game was created by a Eugene family, Jacob Strandlin, an IT staff member at Lane Community College, and Andrea Strandlin, a stay-at-home mom. What began as a casual conversation quickly accelerated into something tangible.

“We had the idea on a Sunday and by that Wednesday, we were on our second prototype,” Jacob says.

From the beginning, accessibility guided the game’s design. Rather than relying on dense text or complicated rules, **HAPHAZARDS** centers on visual storytelling — allowing players of varying ages and reading abilities to participate.

“When we made it during lockdown, the kids couldn’t both read yet,” Andrea says. “So we made sure they have big, colorful pictures, so that the kids could kind of make up their own stories based off what they see on the card.”

That approach continues to shape how the game is played today. Now 11 and 12 years old, Xander Strandlin and Noale Strandlin still play **HAPHAZARDS** at home and at school.

“We donated copies to their schools, so they play the game at school as well

with their friends,” Andrea says.

At their respective elementary and middle schools, students regularly play the game with new outcomes emerging each time. Because **HAPHAZARDS** is built around improvisation, imagination and ever-changing card combinations, no two games ever unfold the same way.

The road to publication was not immediate. In 2022, the Strandlins launched a Kickstarter campaign in an attempt to publish the game. The effort fell short, but the setback did not end the project. Instead, the family chose to self-fund production, placing the cost on a credit card they say they are “still paying off.”

“There wasn’t enough traffic on it to make the goals,” Andrea says.

“I think we probably would have had to spread the word for another year to have had a chance,” Jacob says.

Andrea adds, “Or charge more per copy, which we didn’t want to do. We didn’t want to do some expensive game.”

As the project moved closer to production, visual identity became a priority. Jacob Strandlin reached out to Ari Summers, a California college student studying molecular and cell biology, after discovering and admiring the comics Summers had published online. The collaboration helped shape the game’s distinctive art style, marked by exaggerated creatures, bold colors and visual humor.

Many people in the Eugene area recognize **HAPHAZARDS** from its presence at the Lane County Fair since 2022 where the Strandlin family hosts a booth centered on live gameplay. Instead of focusing on sales alone, the family invites fairgoers to sit down and play rounds with the creators themselves. The approach at the fair introduced the game to players ranging in age from 3 to 83, according to Andrea, showing its cross-generational appeal. “For the 3 year old, we just set the cards flat on the table and helped them tell the story based on the pictures,” she says.

Designed for three to eight players ages 5 and up, **HAPHAZARDS** takes about 30 to 60 minutes to play and can be learned in roughly five minutes. Players take turns drawing Hazard cards that present ridiculous dangers, while the rest of the table secretly assemble rescue plans using exactly three item cards.

Each round unfolds as a short burst of collaborative storytelling. Players reveal their items and explain how an often illogical combination somehow saves the endangered player. The person facing the hazard selects their favorite plan, awarding that player the Hazard card as a point before the next round begins.

“When everyone’s ready, everyone tells their rescue plan or their story using the three items, and then the person that got into trouble gets to choose which rescue plan they think is best, and they get to decide what ‘best’ means,” Andrea says.

Play continues until all Hazards are resolved, with the player holding the most Hazard cards declared the winner. Tiebreakers rely on previously banished Hazards and group voting, sometimes resulting in shared victories.

“It’s using creativity and problem-solving skills in just kind of a fun storytelling setting,” she says.

The Strandlins continue to invite community involvement by encouraging players and fans to reach out with ideas for house rules or alternative game modes. One variation featured on the game’s website, hard mode, removes starting hands altogether. Instead, when a Hazard card is revealed, everyone except the player in peril draws three random Item cards and must build a rescue plan using only those cards.

As **HAPHAZARDS** moved from kitchen-table prototypes to full self published production in January 2023, the Strandlins expanded the project into a broader visual world, releasing posters, pins and plush jackalopes alongside the game. An initial print run of 500 copies has arrived and is currently shipping, with a price increase planned following the prerelease period.

At its core, **HAPHAZARDS** values imagination over optimization. Each round offers a new experience, shaped entirely by the people at the table — a reminder that sometimes the best response to disaster is a good story and a willingness to lean into it.

The Strandlins are already planning future projects beyond **HAPHAZARDS**, including another card game currently in the prototype stage titled Pass the Gas.

Ready to face the hazards? Learn more or order the game at HaphazardsGame.com.



Raven Alicestar Luna Vazul Cramond

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Steven Godo Kiss, and
brother Griffin, in an
uneventful homebirth in
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EUGENE Weekly

Happiness Wins the Game

'The Game of Real Life' has graced Eugene for 27 years, putting an accurate spin on a classic board game BY SAVANNAH BROWN

To Chris Pender, there are two types of kids. *Monopoly* kids and *The Game of Life* kids. “*Monopoly* kids are all into money and negotiating,” he says. But he was a *Life* kid. “I became an actor. And so to me, life always had a storyline.”

Under parody law, Pender has been selling his own rendition of *The Game of Life* for 27 years, at the Eugene Saturday Market and online. While it contains some similar moments to the classic, Pender’s *The Game of Real Life* provides players with a much more honest, nuanced, detailed and humorous analysis at what it means to be alive — all with a backdrop of a photograph of Oregon’s coastal trees.

Pender’s version starts with “The Pre-Game,” a spot on the board with a list of instructions to build your character before game-play starts. In the Pre-Game, you’ll choose a gemstone to move about the board (rather than a pink or blue

peg). Then, you’ll flip a coin to determine your character’s biological sex and roll the dice for economic class — circumstances you’re born into that will affect you for the rest of the game. As you play along the board — which vaguely resembles *Life*, but with more tracks and pauses depending on the things that happen to you — you might find yourself faced with things like circumcision, getting orphaned or broken up with, having a good poop (which earns you points), encountering a “Donner Party Situation,” losing sleep because your baby cries at night, menopause, going on a nice walk with a friend and laughing long and loud.

While it’s been nearly three decades since the 67-year-old began to grace Eugene with the game, he’s been developing it since he was a child.

Along with growing up loving to play *Monopoly* and *The Game of Life*, he found himself playing a board

game called *Careers*, which he says gave him a childhood epiphany. In that game, players choose between fame, money and happiness.

Until *Careers*, Pender says, “I thought all games were about money.” He says he would choose the “happiness” category every time he played, “and I would never win, but I didn’t care.”

In *The Game of Real Life*, money only serves to make your playing experience easier, but it’s the player with the most happiness points at the end that wins the game. “Happiness is what I’m going for,” he says. “I like natural happiness, more like your parents loving you, falling in love as a teenager, playing with a puppy, catching autumn leaves as they fall,” he says, referring to the squares in his game that are worth the most points.

However, the original concept of his game didn’t necessarily come from the joys of playing with puppies. Pender says that as a child (and throughout his life), he would constantly think back to *The Game of Life* and ponder the aspects of reality that it was missing, eventually keeping a notebook to jot down the parts that the game seemingly neglected. Growing up in the 1960s with three older sisters, “they were worried about their boyfriends getting drafted,” he says. “And for me, I immediately thought, ‘Oh, they should have that in *The Game of Life*.’ You land on a space that says ‘YOU’RE DRAFTED.’” This idea evolved into a space in his real game, and it simply says “WAR.”

If you land on it, the dice determines the type of war it is (World War III, 9/11, nuclear war where everyone dies and the game is over, etc.), and what happens as a result (being buried alive, shooting a teenager, ethnic cleansing, and so forth).

Though war happens at the roll of a dice, Pender also made sure to include two essential elements to life where players have just a bit more control. Throughout the game, as in life, players are faced with several opportunities to have sex and do drugs.

When he was an actor in New York, “I was at a party, and so there’s the typical mirror coming towards me with white powder on it,” he says. When he asked what the powder was, the person told him “I don’t know.” At that moment, he says, “I had to decide whether to take the drug or not. And I didn’t.”

In his game, sex and drugs are a choice, but if players go through with either they must face the double-edged sword consequences of gaining happiness points, but potentially losing health points.

“My oldest sister had a baby when I was a kid, and we had to take her to the hospital. And again, I just immediately thought about *The Game of Life*,” he says. “Sex is much more complicated than putting a peg in a car.”

His game has a birthroom as well as gay and lesbian sex options, with men typically scoring more points for having sex than women do, to reflect societal double standards.

As he finally finished putting the game together, he says he had just one more space that needed to be filled in, and it was in the childhood section. “I asked my friend’s son, who was 8-years-old at the time, ‘What’s your happiest memory?’” He says that the little boy told him, “Running naked in the ocean with just my boots on.” That response became the square right then.

Throughout *The Game of Real Life*, you’ll go through waves of health, and money will come and go. But as you live your life and make memories, it’s the happy little moments that will win you the game.

To purchase or ask questions about *The Game of Real Life*, visit GameOfRealLife.com, email Chris@GameOfRealLife.com or call 541-484-4737.

‘Sex is much more complicated than putting a peg in a car.’

— Chris Pender, creator of *The Game of Real Life*

CHRIS PENDER, CREATOR OF THE GAME OF REAL LIFE.
Photo by Eve Weston

what's happening

Rolling the dice since 1982



JUSTINE JOHNSON'S
WOMEN WITH TABLE.
Photo by Justine Johnson

JAN. 29-FEB. 28 One Wall Gallery, perhaps Eugene’s smallest visual arts space, expands to two walls in 2026 with **Sun and Rain, Again**, an exhibit from Portland painter and tattoo artist Justine Johnson. It is on display until the end of February. One Wall Gallery is on the second floor of Epic Seconds, a new and used music, DVD and video game store in downtown Eugene. Ben Terrell, Epic Seconds’ owner and gallerist, says with double the space, shows will change on opposite months, so there’s always something new to see. Of Johnson’s work, Terrell says, “I found it interesting that a tattoo artist who also paints thinks about found photos. When your profession is drawing something permanent on someone,” he continues, “you become an invisible caretaker of memories.” Johnson says that while selecting works to display in Eugene, “I noticed a dual theme of day and night paintings, and wanted to show them together under a sun/rain signifier.” Johnson has lived and studied in Minnesota, New York and Italy, and “Oregon’s rainy winter weather is making me aware of the differences between a sunny day and a rainy one — both are equally beautiful to me,” she says. — Will Kennedy

Justine Johnson’s Sun and Rain, Again hangs through Saturday, Feb. 28, at One Wall Gallery, 30 East 11th Avenue on the top floor of Epic Seconds, open 10 am to 7 pm Monday through Saturday and noon to 6 pm Sunday.



January 29
THURSDAY

Art/Craft

Paint & Sip: Bacon Booty, 2-4pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$35
Scrappy Hour for Glass Artists, 4:30-5:30pm, MECCA, 555 High St.
Paint & Sip: Lotus, 6-8pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$35

Benefits

Parenting is NO Joke: A Comedy Benefit for WellMama,

6-7:30pm, 255 Madison. FREE-\$30

Civics

PSAP/911 Board Mtg. Public Safety Answering Point, 3:30pm, Central Lane 911, 1755 W. 2nd Ave.
Spfd. State of the City, 5:30pm, Wildish Community Theater, 630 Main St., Spfd.

Comedy

Bad Teachers w/ Cory Michaels, 7pm, Whirled Pies, 199 W. 8th Ave.

Drag

Muse Collective Cabaret: High Roller Revue, 9pm, Sparrow

& Serpent, 211 Washington St. \$10

Film

Horrible Bingo: Friday the 13th Part VIII (1989), 7-9pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$10

Food/Drink

Thursday Tastings: Dry January Edition, 5-7pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette.

Gatherings

Suicide Prevention Meditation, 6:30pm, Jesco Club, 340 Blair Blvd.

Family Support Group, 7-8:30pm, NAMI Lane County, 129 9th St., Spfd.

Kids/Family

Sensory Storytime, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Lectures/Classes

Duck Talks, 6:30pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette.

Literary Arts

Jill Amy Sager: Guidance from the Universe: Hopeful Messages for Everyday Challenges, 7pm, Tsunami Books, 2585 Willamette.

Markets

The Resale Show 2026, noon-5:30pm, Karin Clarke Gallery, 760 Willamette.

Nightlife

Cat Bingo, 5:30-7pm, Eugene Spfd. Cat Lounge, 537 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd. \$25

Trivia Night, 7pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave.
Karaoke w/ Adam, 8pm-midnight, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd.

Outdoors/Recreation

Private Goat Happy Hour, noon-1pm, No Regrets Flower Farm & Animal Sanctuary, 26641 Bellfountain Rd., Monroe. FREE-\$35

Social Dance

Harmonic Blues Fusion, 7pm, Veterans' Memorial bldg., 1626 Willamette. \$10-30

Teens

Tea & Games, 4pm, Bethel Branch Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd.

Theater

The Rocket Men, 7:30pm, Oregon Contemporary Theatre, 194 W. Broadway.

Urinetown the Musical, 7:30pm, Very Little Theatre, 2350 Hilyard St. \$31

January 30
FRIDAY

Art/Craft

Art Walk, 6-8pm, The Axe & Fiddle, 657 E. Main St., Cottage Grove.

Historic Cottage Grove Art Walk, 6-8pm, Historic Downtown, Main St., Cottage Grove.

Paint & Sip: Van Gogh's Starry Night, 6:30-8:30pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$45

Comedy

Gateway Show, 7pm, Whirled Pies, 199 W. 8th Ave. \$30-40

Film

Shortcutterie II, 8-10pm, Opal Ctr. for Arts & Education, 513 E. Main St., Cottage Grove. \$10

Gatherings

Peer Connection Support Group, 4-5:30pm, NAMI Lane County, 129 9th St., Spfd.

Kids/Family

Family Storytime, 10:15am, Sheldon Branch Eugene Public Library, 1566 Coburg Rd.

Preschool Storytime, 10:30am, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Listen & Paint, 3:30pm, Bethel Branch Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd.

All-Ages Bingo, 6pm, Sheldon Branch Eugene Public Library, 1566 Coburg Rd.

Lectures/Classes

West African Djembe Drumming w/ Ibou Sylla, 5:30-7pm, Djembe Trading Post, 1740 W. 10th Ave. \$25

Literary Arts

Book Club: Gender Queer, 5:30-6:30pm, Books w/ Pictures Eugene, 296 E. 5th Ave. ste. 224.

Nightlife

Twisted Karaoke, 8pm-midnight, Twisted Duck, 533 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd.

Outdoors/Recreation

Cat Lounge 2nd Anniversary Special, 10am-7pm, Eugene-Spfd. Cat Lounge, 537 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd. \$5

Private Goat Happy Hour, noon-1pm, No Regrets Flower Farm & Animal Sanctuary, 26641 Bellfountain Rd., Monroe. FREE-\$35

Spiritual

Recovery Dharma Buddhist Recovery Mtg., 10-11am, Jesco Club, 340 Blair Blvd.

Teens

LGBTQ+ Youth Group, 4-6pm, Amazon Community Ctr., 2700 Hilyard St.

Theater

The Rocket Men, 7:30pm, Oregon Contemporary Theatre, 194 W. Broadway.

Urinetown the Musical, 7:30pm, Very Little Theatre, 2350 Hilyard St. \$31

January 31
SATURDAY

Art/Craft

Fairy House & Portal bldg. Workshop, 11am-1pm, No Regrets Flower Farm & Animal Sanctuary, 26641 Bellfountain Rd., Monroe. \$45

Stained Glass Geometric Panel Workshop w/ April Reign, noon-3:30pm, MECCA, 555 High St. \$75

Zine Into the New Year: Beginnings, noon-2pm, Facing Giants, 576 Olive St., ste. 300. FREE-\$20

Artist Talk: Vanessa German, 2pm, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, 1430 Johnson Ln.

Make a Beaded Plant, 4:30-5:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Paint & Sip: Butterfly on Mushroom, 6:30-8:30pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$45

Comedy

Between The Punchlines, 7pm, Arable Brewing Company, 510 Conger St. \$18-22

Dance

An Evening of Belly Dance, 6-10pm, Whirled Pies Downtown, 199 W. 8th Ave. \$15

Drag

Drag Bingo, 5pm, Sparrow & Serpent, 211 Washington St.

Farmers Markets

Saturday Farmers Market, 9am-2pm, Farmers Market Pavilion, 85 E. 8th Ave.

Festival

D&D One-Shot: The Winter Fae's Masquerade, noon, Books w/ Pictures Eugene, 296 E. 5th Ave. ste. 224. \$15

Film

National Theatre: Hamlet, 3:15pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$16-19

Gatherings

Talk Time: Practice Conversational English, 10am, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Health

Hack Your Health, 11am-noon, Natural Grocers, 201 Coburg Rd.

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CALENDAR

Kids/Family

Little Friends Art & Creative Play, 10-11:15am, Pudding Art Studio, 911 River Rd. \$10

Baby & Toddler Storytime, 10:15am, Bethel Branch Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd.

Family Storytime, 10:30am & 11:15am, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Family Fun: LEGO, 3-5pm, Bethel Branch Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd.

Literary Arts

Modern(ist) Fiction, 9:30am-noon, UO Baker Downtown Ctr., 975 High St.

Poetry Reading: Clown Cantos by Barbara Mossberg, 5-7pm, Tsunami Books, 2585 Willamette.

Book Launch: Off Route by Rick Levin, 7pm, Dark Pine Coffee, 954 Pearl St.

Markets

The Resale Show 2026, 10am-4pm, Karin Clarke Gallery, 760 Willamette.

Hot Wheels & Diecast Show, 11am-3pm, Spfd. Elks Lodge, 1701 Centennial Blvd., Spfd.

Nightlife

Musio Bingo, 6pm, Local Losers Lounge, 85944 Hwy. 99 S.

Outdoors/Recreation

Campus Willamette River Natural Area Tree Planting, 10am-1pm, Willamette River Natural Area.

Yoga, 10am, The Hybrid, 941 W. 3rd Ave. \$10-20

Private Goat Happy Hour, noon-1pm, No Regrets Flower Farm & Animal Sanctuary, 26641 Bellfountain Rd., Monroe. FREE-\$35

Original Goat Yoga, 1-2pm, No Regrets Flower Farm & Animal Sanctuary, 26641 Bellfountain Rd., Monroe. \$35

Spiritual

Insight Meditation & Dharma Reflections & Discussion, 9:30-11am, Unitarian Universalist Bldg, 1685 W. 13th Ave.



WESTON SMITH'S PERSONAL HOT WHEEL COLLECTION.

Photo by Kat Tabor

JAN. 31

Collectors from across the Pacific Northwest will gather in Springfield as the Willamette Valley Diecast club hosts its annual winter show, a swap-meet style event dedicated to Hot Wheels and diecast model cars. Club event organizer Jenny Autrey and her 14-year-old son Weston Smith joined Willamette Valley Diecast when Smith developed an interest in collecting Hot Wheels at age 11, Autrey says. At the time, the group had around 100 members, which has since grown to roughly 1,100 collectors from across the region. “We put on shows three times a year: winter, spring in May and then fall in September,” Autrey says. The Winter Show offers collectors the opportunity to buy, sell and trade a wide range of diecast cars, from common favorites to harder-to-find pieces. “I describe it to people like a bazaar for Hot Wheels or diecasts,” Autrey adds. “There’s a whole other world of cars that are collectible like M2s, GreenLights and Matchbox,” alongside the ever-popular Hot Wheels. In addition to vendor tables, the all-ages event includes a custom diecast contest, with awards given to first, second and third place entries. Organizers encourage longtime collectors and curious newcomers alike to stop by, browse and connect with others who share an interest in the hobby. — Kat Tabor

The Willamette Valley Diecast Winter Show is 11 am to 3 pm Saturday, Jan. 31, at Springfield Elks Lodge, 1707 Centennial Boulevard in Springfield. Admission is free, with \$5 early-bird entry from 10 am to 11 am. For more information, visit Willamette Valley Diecast on Facebook groups.

February 1

SUNDAY

Tarot Readings w/ Destiny, 1-5pm, Bree's Way Gift Shop, 1231 Alder St. \$15-40

Theater

Anastasia, 7:30pm, Actors Cabaret of Eugene, 996 Willamette.

The Rocket Men, 7:30pm, Oregon Contemporary Theatre, 194 W. Broadway.

Urinetown the Musical, 7:30pm, Very Little Theatre, 2350 Hilyard St. \$31

Art/Craft

Handmade w/ Clay Series: Clay Hearts!, noon-2pm, Clay Space, 222 Polk Ave. \$80

Valentine's Day Card Making, noon-9pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette.

Stained Glass Geometric Panel Workshop w/ April Reign,

12:30-4pm, MECCA, 555 High St. \$75

Build a Step Stool/Bench, 1-4pm, BRING Recycling, 4446 Franklin Blvd. \$22.50-45

Paint & Sip: Peacock, 2-4pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$35

Benefits

Bingo Benefiting Charity, 3-5pm, Tallman Brewing,

2055 Primrose St., Lebanon. \$2-5

Civics

PHB Lived Experience for Unhoused Engagement, 2-3pm, Online, visit LaneCountyOr.gov for link.

Film

National Theatre: Hamlet, 1pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$16-19

The Princess Bride (1987), 4pm & 7pm, Whiteside Theatre, 361 SW. Madison Ave., Corvallis. \$8-10

Health

Advanced: Anaphylaxis Management, 10am-noon, Oregon CPR, 657 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd. \$85

Kids/Family

Family Fun: LEGO, 1-4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Literary Arts

Poetry in the Round, 12:30-2pm, Coburg Commons Bookstore, 91193 N. Willamette, Coburg.

Studio 7 Poetry Series, 1pm, Studio 7 Art Gallery, 87230 Central Rd.

Writing Time, 6:30-9pm, Wordcrafters Studio, 436 Charnelton St. ste. 100. \$5

Nightlife

Karaoke w/ DJ Johnben, 8pm-midnight, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd.

Outdoors/Recreation

Trauma-Informed Yoga for Veterans, 9:30-10:30am, Sheldon Community Ctr., 2445 Willakenzie Rd.

Social Dance

Eugene Community Ecstatic Dance, 11:15am, River Rd. House Concert, 246 Ivanhoe Ave.

Swing Social Dance, 5:30-9pm, The Vet's Club, 1626 Willamette. \$6

Learn Dances Mostly from the Balkan Area, 7:15-9:45pm, Vet's Club, 1620 Willamette. \$5

Spectator Sports

Ultimate Frisbee Hat Tournament, 10am-2:30pm, ATA Middle School Turf, 1650 W. 22nd Ave. \$25

Brunches & Dragons, 11am-2pm, Sparrow & Serpent, 211 Washington St. \$5

Spiritual

Service to Humanity, 10-11:30am, Baha'i Ctr., 1458 Alder St.

Sunday Morning Soul Connection, 10:45am-noon, EVCSL The Light House, 458 Blair Blvd.

Learn Tarot Workshop Series, 3-4:30pm, Bree's Way Gift Shop, 1231 Alder St. \$125

Heal the Divine Feminine Full Moon Circle, 4:30-6:30pm, Star Gate Lotus Rm., 1374 Willamette. \$33

Faith Forward: A Gathering for Single Moms, 5-7pm, Facing Giants, 576 Olive St., ste. 300.

Theater

Anastasia, 2pm, Actors Cabaret of Eugene, 996 Willamette.

The Rocket Men, 2pm, Oregon Contemporary Theatre, 194 W. Broadway.

Urinetown the Musical, 2pm, Very Little Theatre, 2350 Hilyard St. \$31.

February 2

MONDAY

Civics

Annual SB 111 Mtg., 2-3pm, Online, visit LaneCountyOr.gov for link.

Facilities Standing Committee., 2-3pm, Harris Hall, 125 E. 8th Ave., visit LaneCountyOr.gov for link.

Film

National Theatre: Hamlet, 6:30pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$16-19

Food/Drink

Annual Truffle Week, 11:30am-10pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd.

Gatherings

Afternoon Chess, 4-6pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd.

Death Cafe, 6:30-8pm, Shelton McMurphey Johnson House, 303 Willamette.

Nightlife

Cribbage w/ Eugene Cribbage, 6:30-8:30pm, The Annex Eugene, 1236 Kincaid St. \$3

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BINGO NIGHT

TUESDAYS WITH TY, 6:30PM

TRIVIA NIGHT

TUESDAYS WITH GEO, 7PM

BINGO NIGHT

TUESDAYS WITH TY, 6:30PM

BINGO NIGHT

WEDNESDAYS WITH TY, 7PM

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Trivia Mondays w/ Geo, 7-9pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd.

Outdoors/Recreation

Taiji & Mobility, 9-10am, Den-finity Dance Studio, 1325 Jefferson St. \$15-20

Beginner's Rock Climbing, 6-8pm, Crux Rock Climbing Gym, 401 W. 3rd Ave. \$17

Spiritual

Women's Wisdom Study Group, 5:30-7pm, Online, visit pa-treon.com/cw/CreativeSpir-itCollaborative for link. \$10

February 3 TUESDAY

Art/Craft

Upcycled Jewelry Workshop, 4-5:30pm, MECCA, 555 High St. \$20

Knit & Crochet Circle, 6pm, Sheldon Branch Eugene Public Library, 1566 Coburg Rd.

Queer & Trans Figure Drawing, 6-8pm, The Hybrid, 941 W. 3rd ave. \$5-15

Civics

Board of Commissioners Mtg., 9am, Harris Hall, 125 E. 8th Ave. or visit LaneCountyOr.gov for link.

Sign Up for Free Notary, 10:30am, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Lane County Planning Commis-sion Mtg., 6-9pm, Customer Service Ctr., 3050 N. Delta Hwy. or visit LaneCountyOr.gov for link.

Gatherings

Brake Light Clinic, 5:30-7:30pm, Ctr. for Spiritual Living, 390 Vernal St.

Queer Affinity Circle, 6-8pm, 1320 W. 2nd Ave.

Climate Cafe, 7pm, House Concert, 70 E. Howard Ave.

Kids/Family

Baby Storytime, 9:45am & 10:30am, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Twens: Zine Workshop, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Noche de Lotería En Español, 6:15pm, Bethel Branch Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd.

Lectures/Classes

Tech Help, 2-3pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Compassionate Listening Workshop, 5-7pm, Ebbert Memorial United Method-ist Church, 532 C St., Spfd. \$100-150

Literary Arts

Writing Time, 9:30am-noon, Wordcrafters Studio, 436 Charnelton St. ste. 100. \$5

Nightlife

Bingo Tuesdays w/ Ty Connor, 6:30-8:30pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd.

Tacos & Trivia, 6:30-8pm, Tallman Brewing, 2055 Primrose St., Lebanon.

Bingo & Tacos, 7-8:30pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette.

Get in the Game Show, 7-9pm, RoadHouse Billiards & Brew, 2105 W. 7th Ave.

Outdoors/Recreation

Gentle Restorative Yoga, 10-11am, Trauma Healing Project, 631 E. 19th Ave. bldg. B. \$15

February 4 WEDNESDAY

Art/Craft

Knit & Crochet Circle, 6-7:30pm, Downtown Eu-gene Public Library.

Civics

ISCEE Mtg., 6pm, OSLP, 412 Pearl St.

Comedy

Another Round: Open Mic, 7:30pm, The Pint Pot Pub, 195 E. 17th Ave.

Film

The Princess Bride (1987), 7pm, Whiteside Theatre, 361 SW. Madison Ave., Cor-vallis. \$8-10

Gatherings

Eugene Go Club, 5:30-9pm, The Wheel Apizza Pub, 390 Lincoln St.

Peer Connection Support Group, 6:30-8pm, Online, visit Nami.org for link.

Health

Breathing for Health & Stress & Anxiety Relief, 1:30-2:30pm, Trauma Healing Project, 631 E. 19th Ave. bldg. B. \$5-15

Kids/Family

Toddler Storytime, 9:45am & 10:30am, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Create Yarn-Bombed Hearts, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Lectures/Classes

Talk Time: Practice Conversa-tional English, 4pm, Down-town Eugene Public Library.

Jewish American Writ-ers, 6-8:30pm, UO Baker Downtown Ctr., 975 High St. \$95-150

Stormwater Management: Why do we Need it & How Can we Do it better?, 6-8pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave. \$10

Literary Arts

Write Your Way Forward, 3-4:30pm, Wordcrafters Studio, 436 Charnelton St. ste. 100. \$89

Markets

The Resale Show 2026, noon-5:30pm, Karin Clarke Gal-lery, 760 Willamette.

Nightlife

Trivia, 6-8pm, The Garden on Friendly, 2760 Friendly St.

Cribbage w/ Eugene Cribbage, 6:30-8:30pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette. \$5

Get in the Game Show, 7-9pm, Centennial Steak House & Sports Bar, 1300 Mohawk Blvd., Spfd.

Trivia w/ Brett, 7pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Wil-lamette.

Trivia w/ Thomas Hiura, 7-9pm, Starlight Lounge, 830 Olive St.

Outdoors/Recreation

Balance for Life: 55-plus Mind-ful Fitness, 10-11am, Eugene

Garden Club, 1645 High St. \$20-60

Social Dance

West Coast Swing Social & Beginner Class, 6-9pm, Salseros Dance Studio, 2512 Oakmont Way ste. C. \$7

Argentine Tango Dancing at the Vet's Club, 7-10pm, Veterans Memorial bldg., 1626 Wil-lamette. \$7-10

Teens

IT (2017), 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Make Monster Mittens, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

February 5 THURSDAY

Art/Craft

Paint & Sip: Love Tree, 2-4pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$35

Scrappy Hour for Jewelry Art-ists, 4:30-5:30pm, MECCA, 555 High St.

Paint & Sip: Full Moon Landscape, 6-8pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$35

Civics

Lane County Fair Board Mtg., 7:30-8:30am, Lane Events Ctr., 796 W. 13th Ave.

Comedy

Twisted Bingo w/ Alan, 7pm, Twisted Duck, 533 W. Cen-tennial Blvd., Spfd.

Film

How to Poison a Planet, 7-9pm, Whiteside Theatre, 361 SW. Madison Ave., Corvallis.

Food/Drink

Stout Month Celebration, 4-7pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette.

Gatherings

Grief Support After a Sub-stance Passing, 6:30-8:30pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W. 13th Ave.

Suicide Prevention Meditation, 6:30pm, Jesco Club, 340 Blair Blvd.

Family Support Group, 7-8:30pm, NAMI Lane County, 129 9th St., Spfd.

Kids/Family

Family Storytime, 10:15am, Bethel Branch Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd.

Sensory Storytime, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Markets

The Resale Show 2026, noon-5:30pm, Karin Clarke Gal-lery, 760 Willamette.

Nightlife

Cat Bingo, 5:30-7pm, Eugene Spfd. Cat Lounge, 537 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd. \$25

Trivia Night, 7pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave.

Karaoke w/ Adam, 8pm, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd.

Social Dance

Harmonic Blues Fusion, 7pm, Veterans' Memorial Bldg., 1626 Willamette. \$10-30

Teen

Girls Ultimate Frisbee Teen Enrichment Program, 5-8pm, ATA Middle School Turf, 1650 W. 22nd Ave. \$5

Music Listings

THURSDAY 1/29

BEERGARDEN Sugar Push (funk) — 7pm.

BLAIRALLY Baby Grendel & Baby Smooth (indie) — 9pm. \$8

JOHN HENRY'S The Flicks & Callowruse & Draggernaut (punk) — 8pm. \$10

LUCKEY'S CLUB Funk Night — 9pm.

PLAY Records w/ DJ Food-stamp — 6pm.

TERRITORIAL VINEYARDS & WINE COMPANY Blessed Relief Jazz Trio — 6pm.

THE SHEDD Christopher Brown (jazz) — 5:30pm.

FRIDAY 1/30

ARABLE BREWING COMPANY The Alley (Americana) — 6pm.

BLAIRALLY Church of 80s — 9pm. \$4

DROP BEAR BREWERY Bongo-Latte (Latin Jazz) — 7pm.

EUGENE SCIENCE CTR. Friday Laser Shows — 5pm. FREE-\$8

GRATITUDE BREWING Bro-hemia After Dark (jazz) — 7:30pm.

MAC'S RESTAURANT & NIGHT-CLUB Inner Limits (blues) — 8pm. \$7

PLAY Soul Sessions w/ Bee & Suz a — 8pm.

TALLMAN BREWING Geoffery Louis Koch (indie) — 6pm.

THE HYBRID Kendall Lujan (folk) — 8pm. \$20

UNITY OF THE VALLEY Steve Poltz (Americana) — 7:30pm. \$26.50

VIKING BREWING WEST Swing Jam w/ Track Town Swing — 6:30pm.

SATURDAY 1/31

BEERGARDEN Buck Magic (country) — 7:30pm.

BUGSY'S Seeking Saturn (alt-rock) — 8pm.

DROP BEAR BREWERY Pos-sible Human Origins (nice core) — 7pm.

GRATITUDE BREWING Buf-falo Moon (classic rock) — 7:30pm.

MAC'S RESTAURANT & NIGHT-CLUB Daddy Rabbit ('50s covers) — 8pm. \$7

PLAY DJ Xacto — 8pm.

TALLMAN BREWING Some-times Blind: Dan Van Ord-strand (indie) — 6pm.

THE HYBRID Soul Vibrator & Bendre the Giant (funk) — 8pm. \$15-18

THE JAZZ STATION Brazilian Skies — 7:30pm. \$25

THE SHEDD Debussy & Ravel — 7:30pm. \$39

VIKING BREWING WEST Tim & Brook ('60s Covers) — 6pm.

WOW HALL One Way Out (Allman Brothers tribute) — 8pm. \$20-25

SUNDAY 2/1

255 MADISON Traditional Irish Music Session — 4pm.

ART HOUSE Dan Mangan & Israel Nebeker (indie folk) — 7:30pm. \$20-25

BEERGARDEN Lloyd L. Tol-bert Band (blues) — 4pm.

BENNETT VINEYARDS & WINE COMPANY Olem Alves Duo (jazz) — 1pm.

DARK PINE COFFEE J.S. Bach's: Coffee Cantata (classical) — 3pm.

EVEN STEVEN'S The EastSide Sunday Night Jam (funk) — 5pm.

GRATITUDE BREWING Open Mic — 3pm.

LOVELY ALL DAY CAFE Jazz Brunch w/ The Dorian May Trio Plus One — 11:30am.

PUBLICHOUSE Open Mic w/ Amblin — 5:30pm.

THE JAZZ STATION Searmi Park & Kim-Choi Duo — 3pm. \$35

THE SHEDD Debussy & Ravel — 3pm. \$39

WOW HALL Tank & the Ban-gas (r&b) — 8pm. \$25-30

MONDAY 2/2

BEERGARDEN Bluegrass Jam & Game Night — 6:30pm.

HAPPY HOURS Open Mic — 8pm.

HOUSTOOTH PUBLIC HOUSE Open Mic — 6:30pm.

THE JAZZ STATION First Monday Night Big Band — 7pm. \$15

TUESDAY 2/3

HAPPY HOURS Rich Fisher (singer-songwriter) — 6:30pm.

LOCAL LOSERS LOUNGE Open Jam — 6pm.

MAC'S RESTAURANT & NIGHT-CLUB Roosters Blues Jam — 6:30pm. \$9

OREGON WINE LAB One Mic Open Mic — 5:30pm.

JAN. 30

After a lineup change, Eugene indie rock-ers **Pink Pollen** return with a ripping new self-titled album, their first since their 2021 debut *Marooned*. The band marks the occasion with an album-release concert, Jan. 30 at John Henry's. Though not completely gone, the album dials back the band's former spacey prog-rock tendencies for a more indie-rock sound with tuneful yet fuzzy guitars. Melodic vocals howl in expansive reverb, and an aggressive rhythm section recalls bands like Dinosaur Jr. or Sloan with dashes of Cheap Trick and the Wipers. Bands often release self-titled debuts, and here, the choice to do so with their sophomore release feels like a fresh start. Guitarist, singer and primary songwriter Mark Leahey says, "I'm getting away from all this ridiculous over-the-top 10-minute-long instrumental-heavy space rock stuff" — which Pink Pollen was once known for — "to write pop songs." In doing so, "I've gone back to this stuff I did when I was like a teenager, early 20s." Leahey adds, "I was in this poppy garage rock band in Detroit back then." And according to Leahey, the stuff he played then was very much of the late '90s and early 2000s. Listening to the new album, "you're going to hear a bunch of different influences," Leahey says. "I think it's entertaining the whole way through." Eugene instrumental surf-rock and film-score-influenced trio Heavenly Oceans, along with Portland 12-string guitarist and songwriter Lucas Gunn, support Pink Pollen on the evening's bill. — *Will Kennedy*



PINK POLLEN Photo by Mark Leahey III

Pink Pollen performs 8 pm Friday, Jan. 30, at John Henry's, 88½ Willamette Street. Tickets are \$10. The show is 21-plus.

THE AXE & FIDDLE Hannah Juanita & The Hardliners w/ Mose (country) — 8pm. \$10

THE SHEDD Edgar Meyer & Mike Marshall & George Meyer (bluegrass) — 7:30pm. \$35.25-49

WHIRLED PIES Jammin' w/ the Pros Jazz Jam — 7pm.

70 E. HOWARD AVE. Jeff Plan-kenhorn (roots) — 7:30pm. \$15-20

ART HOUSE Jet Black Pearl & the Baby Brass Band (avant-folk) — 7:30pm. \$20-25

THE SHEDD Chris Baron (rock) — 6:30pm.

THE HYBRID Open Mic — 7:30pm. \$5

THE JAZZ STATION Xander Buck: One Set Wednesday — 7pm. \$10

THE SHEDD Edgar Meyer & Mike Marshall & George Meyer (bluegrass) — 7:30pm. \$35.25-49

WHIRLED PIES Jammin' w/ the Pros Jazz Jam — 7pm.

70 E. HOWARD AVE. Jeff Plan-kenhorn (roots) — 7:30pm. \$15-20

ART HOUSE Jet Black Pearl & the Baby Brass Band (avant-folk) — 7:30pm. \$20-25

BLAIRALLY Ding Mao & Narcissist & The Unbranded (singer-songwriter) — 9pm. \$7

LUCKEY'S CLUB Funk Night — 9pm.

PLAY Records All Vinyl w/ DJ F Minus — 6pm.

THE HYBRID The Muddy Souls (jamgrass) — 8pm. \$20

TSUNAMI BOOKS Paul Safar & the Tsunami Baby Grand — 6:30pm.

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ARTS




**RICK LEVIN, BUS DRIVER
AND NOVELIST.**
Photo Credit: Todd Cooper

For the Working Class

Q&A with Off Route author and award-winning journalist Rick Levin

BY SADIE MORDAN

Award-winning journalist Rick Levin made a drastic career change six years ago, trading reporting at *Eugene Weekly* for bus driving in Eugene.

During the first three years on the new job, Levin wrote what would become a novel titled *Off Route*, which will be released under GladEye Press on Feb. 9.

Off Route demonstrates compassion for those struggling, arguably by design, with

the American working class experience, approaching commentary on capitalism with utmost empathy for the working class as informed by Levin's work in the service sector.

The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

It's my understanding that after many years of writing, you're now a bus driver. Why did you decide to become a bus driver after years of writing?

I felt like I had taken journalism as far as it could go. It just felt like I'd done everything I wanted to do. With the election of Trump and the kind of massive online anonymous presence, I just felt I wasn't up to the fight anymore, if that makes sense. I love journalism. I mean, I wanted to change the world through journalism ... It wasn't a conversation I wanted to participate in anymore. I still believe in journalism, and I think it's a righteous thing. I just think it's lost its authority,

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and it's not journalism's fault. But also, I'm 57. I just felt like if I was going to make some explosive, startling shift in my life that it was time to make a career change. I've always felt deeply part of, and empathetic with, the working class, and I just wanted to do something really on the ground. I can say all that stuff about journalism, but it was also very personal. It was just like, I'm going back to the fucking working class, and I'm just going to work. So there's some romanticism involved in it.

When did you realize you had a story of some kind on your hands — a story that was going to be best as a novel?

I mean, I just wanted my whole life to write the great American novel. Or just try. I wanted to be like Henry Miller, Herman Melville. It's outrageous, but those were my heroes. It was very existential because that's my one bucket list [item] is to publish a novel, right? And so when I became a bus driver, I was like, I'm done. And I had to do a lot of spiritual work around it and just kind of grieve it and make it OK that my identity is not what I do. I didn't fail at life, but it just constantly nagged at me. And I had to grieve it and kind of make peace with it and become somebody who found value outside of that pursuit.

But I stayed part of my writing group; and we'd go out, and we'd do readings. One day we were having a reading, and I was looking through my old stuff. I was bored, and my wife was like, "Why don't you just write something new?" I was in the middle of my first year or year and a half of driving. It was in the middle of the pandemic. I was working like 65 to 70 hours a week. I was just insane. So I just, like, puked out these 3,000 words about bus driving. And the response was really great. And it also felt really great to sit down and write it.

Since *Off Route* is your first novel, what was the creative process? I'm assuming it was different than when you're writing articles, shorter fiction. You have to, I imagine, psych yourself up time and again. You said that you've wanted to do this for a long time. So why was this the time that it was going to pan out?

If you read the book, you'll see how [bus driving] completely alters your sense of time, and you're filled with this kind of ticking clock of anxiety at all times to go, go, go and do something. So I was sitting around on my days off, and I was like, "I

think I'm just going to go start writing a book now. I'm not going to start tomorrow. I'm not going to plan to do it." I just got up, went to a coffee shop, took my computer and just started writing. And so the whole book was written in a mad dash on my days off, which was weird. But I was able to build enough emotional steam that I somehow could pick it up after every little break. Now, I want to say this all sounds so fucking grandiose. It's just what I went through.

I am a pretty spontaneous writer with really strong opinions: I hate capitalism; I hate consumerism; I hate the class system that structures work.

Off Route isn't a memoir. To what extent, if at all, do you find that your own personality and experiences shaped the narrator?

The book is grounded in my experience over a lifetime of working in the working class because prior to journalism, and even through journalism, I had every job imaginable in the service sector. I worked at a coffee shop; I've worked construction; I worked at a grocery store. So I've had bosses, and I've been part of office politics and workplace politics. I've had those grievances of a worker in the working class; so I brought a lifetime of experience to bear, and I placed it all in a first person narrator and tried to stay as focused on that narrator's experience as possible. Was it drawn from life? Yeah. But it's amplified. To fit things into a narrative, it's molded, but there's not anything in there that is an exaggeration of a working class experience.

You talked about the political climate and that impacting the decision to leave journalism, but then you write a novel that's set in COVID-19 pandemic America. How did you want to address political undercurrents? Did you have a certain angle in mind, considering the setting and time period?

I am a pretty spontaneous writer with really strong opinions: I hate capitalism; I hate consumerism; I hate the class system that structures work. So the people that do the most work generally get paid the least, and they're overseen by people making hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. It's all of that that informed me from my experience.

It was very important to me to make a narrator who was reliably unreliable. The narrator is very traumatized; he's in therapy; he's not some soap box, you know? He's a very flawed, unraveling person. If you're overworked, underpaid, traumatized by work in ways that, like most workplaces, are so not trauma-informed, it's just like, go out there and do your fucking job, and then take care of yourself somehow. The things that people in the service sector are seeing are just gut-wrenching. There's a lot of struggle with compassion fatigue in the novel. I also wanted to show how the working class has been completely sold out and propagandized into supporting this rise of fascism, a very confusing thing if you're a doctrinaire. So I tried to show it, in a sympathetic or an empathetic way, why that happens.

With everything that is very complicated and emotional, how do you hope readers feel stepping away from the novel?

Well, stepping away from it, I hope they all become Marxist revolutionaries and overthrow the capitalist system. But, reading the novel, I hope they're moved, and it's compelling. I think any artistic endeavor is just you're trying; you're lonely, and you're trying to have a conversation with your people, you know? That's how books affected me. It was like I'm drowning in my 20s and somebody hands me a book; and it's just like, "Oh my God, somebody else feels like this?"

I want people that don't typically read books to read my book and to realize that they can write a book, and they can read a book, too.

Rick Levin's Off Route launch party is 7 pm, Jan. 31 at Dark Pine Coffee, 954 Pearl Street.

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8	7						3	5
		5				6		
			3		5			
9				8				2
1	8			9			7	4

Place numbers 1-9 so that each row, column and 3x3 square has each number only once.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

2	3	5	1	4	6	7	8	9
4	6	7	3	8	9	1	2	5
8	9	1	2	5	7	3	4	6
5	2	3	4	9	8	6	7	1
7	1	6	5	2	3	8	9	4
9	8	4	6	7	1	5	3	2
6	7	8	9	1	2	4	5	3
3	4	2	7	6	5	9	1	8
1	5	9	8	3	4	2	6	7

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Jonesin' Crossword

BY MATT JONES

“Orbit-rary”--a sphere, divided.

Across

1. Race with batons

6. Fitting

9. More sagacious

14. GIF, e.g.

15. Old-timey cheering word

16. Really amazed

17. Degraded

19. Escorted from the outside

20. The “S” in RSVP

21. Scoundrel

23. 180 deg. from WSW

24. Study unfamiliar material, say

28. Place to go in England?

29. Stoop

30. Scarecrow's desire

33. Inkling

36. Measure with a stopwatch

39. They may be laminated to protect against spills

42. Eight, to Einstein

43. Right behind in line

44. State of dread

45. “The Time Machine” leisure class

47. Pacers' st.

48. Disco, early punk, funk, etc.

55. Foe of Frazier and Foreman

56. Place to pamper poodles, perhaps

57. ___ el hanout (North African spice mix)

59. “The Hobbit” hobbit Baggins

61. Like the circled letters in the long entries (or the clustered groups)

64. Actor's parts

65. Barrett who cofounded Pink Floyd

Down

1. Wheel edges

2. Message from a server

3. Soup server

4. Questionnaire topic

5. Archery bow wood

6. Scottish island with a namesake whisky brand

7. Outdated

8. Network with LeVar Burton hosting “Trivial Pursuit”

9. First half of a suspenseful decision-making phrase, maybe

10. Plastic follower?

11. A weepy movie often has one

12. “Dallas” surname

13. Descartes and Lacoste

18. “Deal ___ Deal”

22. Awaiting the pitch

25. Not much

26. Slangy term for COVID-19

27. Means (to)

30. Car grille protector

31. Suggestion, casually

32. North Carolina city home to the Biltmore Estate

33. Soreness

34. Actor Shepard of “Idiocracy”

35. Otitis doc

37. Greek consonants

38. Superlative suffix

40. Bring together

41. English Premier League club, to fans

46. Acting as sentry

47. Apple model since 1998

48. Hummus brand

49. “The Waste Land” poet

50. “___ great to see you!”

51. Annual awards for athletes

52. Black playing card

53. Twist in a tale

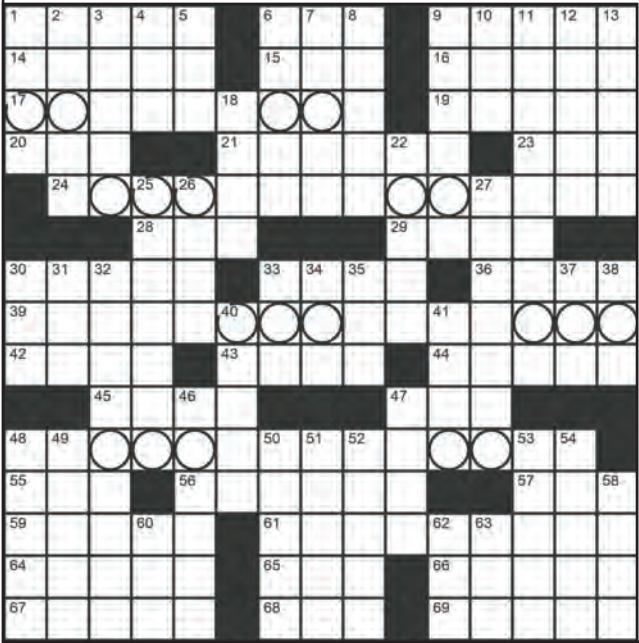
54. Activist's focus

58. Vietnamese flag feature

60. Dorothy portrayed on '80s TV

62. Band with the 1991 album “Schubert Dip”

63. ___ Taco (fast food chain)



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EMPLOYMENT

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The 5th Street Public Market is hiring for two full-time positions: Facilities & Maintenance Manager and Landscaper. Prior experience is required for both roles. Interested candidates may apply via Indeed or email resumes to marisa@obie.com

Eugene Weekly is hiring a part-time Fundraising & Development Coordinator to help support independent local journalism. For more details and how to apply: EugeneWeekly.com/hiring.

Eugene Weekly is looking for an experienced local cartoonist. Must be knowledgeable on Lane County politics. Email a sample portfolio to ads@eugeneweekly.com and editor@eugeneweekly.com

BULLETIN BOARD

Announcements

Attention Crafters! Spring Fair March 27-29. We're back! Our 49th year, booths available for quality crafts. For info send SASE to Spring Fair 2026, POB 22, Dillard, OR 97432 or innerpsacefamily@gmail.com

Unity School has current open-enrollment for the k-4th grade afterschool program. We do morning care/ drop off, and afternoon pickup for Holt, Gilham, Buena Vista, Guy Lee, and Centennial. Call today for a tour, 541-484-0107.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY KRISTOPHER SMITH, Plaintiff, v. BRANDON CROVER, Defendant. Case No. 25CV57174 SUMMONS. IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON: You are hereby required to appear and defend the Complaint filed against you in the above-entitled case within 30 days from the date of service of this Summons upon you; and if you fail to appear and defend, for want thereof, the Plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded therein. The object of the Complaint and the demand for relief are: Defendant has defaulted on payments owed to Plaintiff under a promissory note by failing to make payments when due. Plaintiff declared the entire balance due and payable on July 25, 2025. As of that date, Defendant owed Plaintiff the principal sum of \$162,550.16 together with interest accruing at 9% per annum from that date. Plaintiff is also entitled to payment by Defendant of Plaintiff's costs and attorney fees. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY! You must "appear" in this case or the other side will win automatically. To "appear" you must file with the court a legal document called a "motion" or "answer." The "motion" or "answer" must be given to the court clerk or administrator within 30 days of the date of first publication specified herein along with the required filing fee. It must be in proper form and have proof of service on the Plaintiff's attorney or, if the Plaintiff does not have an attorney, proof of service on the Plaintiff. If you have any questions, you should see an attorney immediately. If you need help in finding an attorney, you may contact the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service online at www.oregonstatebar.org or by calling (503) 684-3763 (in the Portland metropolitan area) or toll-free elsewhere in Oregon at (800) 452-7636. LUVAAAS COBB /s/ Andrew M.J. Pinchin, OSB # 134548, apinchin@luvaascobb.com, Of Attorneys for Plaintiff, Trial Attorney. First Date of Publication: January 29th, 2026.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY MARILYN M. RICE, Plaintiff, v. CHAD ALLEN PAGE and STASHA MAE WALLIN, Defendant. Case No. 25CV55092

SUMMONS. To: Chad Allen Page and Stasha Mae Wallin IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON: You are hereby required to appear and defend the Complaint filed against you in the above-entitled case within 30 days from the date of service of this Summons upon you; and if you fail to appear and defend, for want thereof, the Plaintiffs will apply to the court for the relief demanded therein. The object of the Complaint and the demand for relief are: Defendants purchased real property from Plaintiff under a land sale contract. Defendants failed to make payment obligations when due to Plaintiff and are in default. Defendants owe Plaintiff the principal sum of \$118,419.70 together with interest at 3.5% per annum from September 5, 2025 until paid. Defendants also owe \$2,487.23 in Lane County Real Property Tax. Plaintiff is also entitled to payment of costs. All sums due are to be paid to the clerk of the court within 60 days of judgment or at such time to be fixed by the court. If the sums are timely paid, Defendants are entitled to a deed to the property. If they are not paid, Defendants' interest is to be foreclosed and Plaintiff put in possession of the property. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY! You must "appear" in this case or the other side will win automatically. To "appear" you must file with the court a legal document called a "motion" or "answer." The "motion" or "answer" must be given to the court clerk or administrator within 30 days of the date of first publication specified herein along with the required filing fee. It must be in proper form and have proof of service on the Plaintiff's attorney or, if the Plaintiff does not have an attorney, proof of service on the Plaintiff. If you have any questions, you should see an attorney immediately. If you need help in finding an attorney, you may contact the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service online at www.oregonstatebar.org or by calling (503) 684-3763 (in the Portland metropolitan area) or toll-free elsewhere in Oregon at (800) 452-7636. LUVAAAS COBB. /s/ Andrew M.J. Pinchin, OSB # 134548, apinchin@luvaascobb.com Of Attorneys for Plaintiff, Trial Attorney. First Publication Date: January 8th, 2026

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS ESTATE OF DALE HYLAND LANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 26PBO0260. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Carol Bodine has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with written evidence thereof attached, to the personal representative, c/o Mark M. Williams, Attorney at Law, 180 West Sixth Avenue, Junction City, Oregon 97448. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months after the date of first publication of this notice to the Personal Representative at the address stated above for the presentation of claims or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court or the Personal Representative, named above. Dated and first published January 29th, 2026. Personal Representative: Carol Bodine c/o Mark M. Williams, OSB#821404, 180 West Sixth Avenue, Junction City, Oregon 97448

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY - PROBATE DEPARTMENT CASE NO. 26PBO0311. In the matter of the Estate of Francis Fulton Wagner, Decedent, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Richard Wagner has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the aforementioned personal representative c/o Northwest Legal, Attn: Jinoo Hwang, 975 Oak Street, Suite 700, Eugene, OR 97401, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or attorney for the personal representative, Northwest Legal, Attn: Jinoo Hwang, 975 Oak Street, Suite 700, Eugene, OR 97401.

PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 819 Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 2/9/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by B&R HoldCo, llc. EUGENE 1625 PRAIRIE RD EUGENE, OR 2025 MAZD CX7 LL VIN = 3MVDMBBMSXM750246 Amount due on lien \$4541.50 Reputed owner(s) > MATTHEW LEE TRYON SANTANDER CONSUMER USA INC

PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87 Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 2/10/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by COPART OF WASHINGTON INC-EUGENE 29815 ENID RD EAST EUGENE, OR 2022 HOND CIV 4D VIN = 2HGFE2F57NH502003 Amount due on lien \$1470.00 Reputed owner(s) > MICHELLE ANN STEPHENS OREGON COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

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PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87 Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 2/10/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by COPART OF WASHINGTON INC-EUGENE 29815 ENID RD EAST EUGENE, OR 2025 TOYT RAV LL VIN = 2T3F1RFV3SW576033 Amount due on lien \$1470.00 Reputed owner(s) > MATTHEW & ASTER PARKIN TOYOTA MOTOR CREDIT CORP

PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87 Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 2/10/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by COPART OF WASHINGTON INC-EUGENE 29815 ENID RD EAST EUGENE, OR 2015 TOYT RAV VIN= 23YFREV4FW179965 Amount due on lien \$1470.00 Reputed owner(s) > NICOLE MUELLER

PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87 Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 2/10/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by COPART OF WASHINGTON INC-EUGENE 29815 ENID RD EAST EUGENE, OR 2024 SUBA IMP SW VIN = JF1GUAF08R8878174 Amount due on lien \$1430.00 Reputed owner(s) > EMMA NICOLE MCCARY JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA

PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87 Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 2/10/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by COPART OF WASHINGTON INC-EUGENE 29815 ENID RD EAST EUGENE, OR 2019 KW CON TR VIN - 1KKYD49X2KJ236780 Amount due on lien \$1430.00 Reputed owner(s) > LYV&MADDIE TRUCKING LIC TRIANGLE EQUIPMENT FINANCE LLC

PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87 Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 2/10/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by COPART OF WASHINGTON INC-EUGENE 29815 ENID RD EAST EUGENE, OR 2016 SUBA OUT SW VIN = 4S4BSADC4G3312646 Amount due on lien \$1450.00 Reputed owner(s) > KATELYN STANLEY & DAKODAH HARRELL OREGON COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87 Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 2/10/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by COPART OF WASHINGTON INC-EUGENE 29815 ENID RD EAST EUGENE, OR 2022 LEXS RX L VIN = JTJHKGFA5N2024667 Amount due on lien \$1450.00 Reputed owner(s) > JOANNA LYNN EISLER UPGRADE INC

PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87 Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 2/10/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by COPART OF WASHINGTON INC-EUGENE 29815 ENID RD EAST EUGENE, OR 2020 SUBA L VIN = 4S4WMAFD3L3408103 Amount due on lien \$1610.00 Reputed owner(s) > ASHLEY & CHRISTOPHER ROOT JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA

PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87 Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 2/9/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by PUDDLE JUMPER TOWING 34007 OLD WILLAMETTE HWY EUGENE, OR 2019 KW T68 TR VIN = 1KKYDP9X6KJ238596 Amount due on lien 235538.34 Reputed owner(s) > CHEEMA AAA TRANSPORT INC CHEEMA HAROCHAND WESTERN PETERBILT LLC



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ARIES (March 21-April 19): In 1953, Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay of Nepal became the first climbers to trek to the summit of Mount Everest. They both said later that the climb down was as important and challenging as the ascent. The lesson: Achievement doesn't end when you reach the peak. Aries, you may be nearing or have just passed a high point of effort or recognition. Soon you will need to manage the descent with aplomb. Don't rush! Tread carefully as you complete your victory. It's not as glamorous as the push upward, but it's equally vital to the legacy of the climb.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Aurora borealis occurs when highly charged particles from the Sun strike molecules high in the Earth's atmosphere, causing them to glow. The display that looks like gorgeous magic is actually our planet's invisible magnetic shield and upper atmosphere lighting up under the pressure of an intense solar storm. Dear Taurus, I think your life has a metaphorical resemblance. The strength you've been quietly maintaining without much fanfare has become vividly apparent because it's being activated. The protection you've been offering and the boundaries you've been holding are more visible than usual. This is good news! Your shields are working.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "Nothing in excess" was the maxim inscribed on the ancient Temple of Apollo at Delphi. "Moderation is a chief moral virtue," proclaimed the philosopher Aristotle. But I don't recommend those approaches for you right now, Gemini. A sounder principle is "More is better" or "Almost too much is just the right amount." You have a holy duty to cultivate lavishness and splendor. I hope you will stir up as many joyous liberations and fun exploits as possible.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): When sea otters sleep, they sometimes hold each other's paws to keep from drifting apart. This simple, instinctive act ensures they remain safe and connected. I suggest making their bond your power symbol for now, Cancer. You'll be wise to formulate a strong intention about which people, values and projects you want to be tethered to. And if sea otters holding hands sounds too sentimental or cutesy to be a power symbol, you need to rethink your understanding of power. For you right now, it's potency personified.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): To be healthy, we all need to continually be in the process of letting go. It's always a favorable phase to shed aspects of our old selves to make room for what comes next. The challenge for you Leos is to keep showing up with your special brightness even as parts of you die away to feed new growth. So here are my questions: What old versions of your generosity or courage are ready to compost? What fiercer, wilder, more sustainable expression of your leonine nature wants to

emerge? The coming weeks will be an excellent time to stop performing the hero you used to be and become the hero you are destined to become.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The Haudenosaunee people practice "seventh-generation thinking": making decisions based on their impact seven generations into the future. You would be wise to incorporate the spirit of their visionary approach, Virgo. Here's the problem: You're so skilled at fixing what needs urgent attention that you sometimes neglect what's even more important in the long run. So I will ask you to contemplate what choices you could you make now that will be blessings to your future self. This might involve ripening an immature skill, shedding a boring obligation that drains you, or delivering honest words that don't come easily. Rather than obsessing on the crisis of the moment, send a sweet boost to the life you want to be living three years from now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Are you open to the idea that new wisdom doesn't always demand struggle and strain? In the days ahead, I invite you to move as if the world is deeply in love with you; as if every element, every coincidence, every kind pair of eyes is cheering you forward. Imagine that generous souls everywhere want to help you be and reveal your best self. Trust that unseen allies are rearranging the flow of fate to help you grow into the beautiful original you were born to be. Do you dare to be so confident that life loves you?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Psychologist James Pennebaker did studies showing that people who write about traumatic experiences for just 15 minutes a day show improved immune function, fewer doctor visits and better emotional health. But here's a key detail: The benefits don't come from the trauma itself or from "processing feelings." They come from constructing a narrative: making meaning, finding patterns and creating coherence. The healing isn't in the wound. It's in the story you shape from the wound's raw material. You Scorpios excel at this alchemical work. One of your superpowers is to take what's dark, buried or painful and transform it through the piercing attention of your intelligence and imagination. The coming weeks will be an excellent time to do this.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In Jewish mysticism, *tikkun olam* means "repair of the world." This is the idea that we're all responsible for healing what's broken. But the teaching also says you're not required to complete the work; you're only asked to not abandon it. This is your message right now, Sagittarius: You don't have to save everyone. You don't have to heal everything, and you don't even have to finish the projects you've started. But you can't abandon them entirely, either. Keep

showing up. Do what you can today. That's enough. The work will continue whether or not you complete it. Your part is to not walk away from your own brokenness and the world's. Stay engaged.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The Talmud teaches that "every blade of grass has an angel bending over it, whispering, 'Grow, grow.'" I sense that you are now receiving the extra intense influence of your own guardian angels, Capricorn. They aren't demanding or threatening, just encouraging. Please tune into their helpful ministrations. Don't get distracted by harsher voices, like your internalized critic, the pressure of impossible standards or the ghost of adversaries who didn't believe in you. Here's your assignment: Create time and space to hear and fully register the supportive counsel. It's saying: Grow. You're allowed to grow. You don't have to earn it. Just grow.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You are a spy from the future. Thank you for your service! I love to see your boldness as you smuggle innovative ideas into a present that may or may not be ready for them. Your feelings of alienation are sometimes uncomfortable, but they are crucial to the treasure you offer us. You see patterns others miss because you refuse to be hypnotized by consensus reality. Keep up the excellent work, please. May you honor your need to tinker with impossibilities and imagine alternatives to what everyone else imagines is inevitable. You are proof that we don't have to accept inherited structures as inevitable.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): I foresee a dose of real magic becoming available to you: equivalent to an enchanted potion, a handful of charmed seeds, or a supernatural spell. But owning the magic and knowing how to use it are two different matters. There's no promise you will instantly grasp its secrets. To give yourself the best shot, follow a few rules: 1. Keep it quiet. Only share news of your lucky charm with those who truly need to hear about it. 2. Before using it to make wholesale transformations, test it gently in a situation where the stakes are low. 3. Whatever you do, make sure your magic leaves no bruises behind.

Homework: Is a wounded part of you finally ready to heal? Do it! Newsletter.FreeWillAstrology.com

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SAVAGE *Love* BY DAN SAVAGE

Medicine, Man

I'm on SSI in low-income housing. I'm a 54-year-old man and still a virgin. Since I was a child, I have always liked women's legs and feet. I love pantyhose. I masturbate every night to what I hear and see about that, especially Tiffani Thiessen. I was worried that I had scarred the underside of my penis, but I've been given a clean bill of health by a specialist. With these things in mind, I think a nurse is my best fit since they're sexual and they can examine me. There was actually an ad on Craigslist a few years ago about rooming with two nurses. Ideally, I'd like to find a similar living situation in the Dallas area, due to the milder climate. Additionally, I think Dallas offers the best chance for me to find a job that fits my educational background and get off SSI. (Finding a relationship while poor or indigent is impossible.) While I would obviously have heavy sexual motives regarding nurse roommates, I don't want to hurt anyone or ask them to commit malpractice. Perhaps room-

ing with a nurse or two who works in research, or some other non-invasive field would be a safer bet? If you know someone who could help me, please let me know.
— Needs Understanding Roommates Sexual Efforts

Only you can help you, NURSE, and disabusing yourself of this delusion — there are no hot nurses out there who would be willing to examine their virgin roommate's 54-year-old penis because that's what he wants — is the single most important thing you can do to help yourself.

If you want to live in Dallas, if you have job prospects in Dallas, by all means, NURSE, move to Dallas. Get a job, get your own place, and get roommates if you need help making rent. But springing your kinks on a new

roommate or roommates — whether they're nurses or not — won't get your dick examined. Your roommates won't examine your dick just because you asked. Your roommates will box up your shit, put it on the porch, and have the locks changed.

Here's a better plan: get a job, get a place, get a couple of roommates to cut your living expenses — roommates you wouldn't be tempted to hit on — and save your money to hire a sex worker. There are plenty of sex workers out there who would happily wear pantyhose and pretend to be nurses while they examine your cock for signs of wear and tear.

Got problems? Yes, you do! Email your question for the column to mailbox@savage.love! Or record your question for the Savage Lovecast at savage.love/askdan! Podcasts, columns and more at SavageLove

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FEBRUARY 5 ISSUE

LOVE & SEX

plus **DATE** **NIGHT**
SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT FEB. 13-15

The Love & Sex Issue hits the streets
February 5, bringing the heat just in
time for Valentine's Day.

Alongside it: **Date Night**, a special
supplement featuring gift ideas, events,
dinners, drinks and experiences from
local businesses.

Read it for the spicy stuff.
Use it to plan the date.

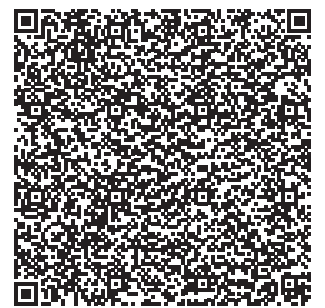
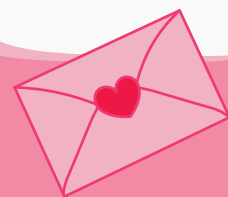
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